



Highlands Conference Center



Department of Conservation & Recreation
CONSERVING VIRGINIA'S NATURAL & RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

Douthat State Park Millboro, Virginia

Virginia Green is the Commonwealth of Virginia's campaign to promote environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia's tourism industry. **Virginia Green** has established "core activities" specific to each sector of tourism, and these practices are considered the required minimum for participation in the program. However, **Virginia Green** encourages its participants to reduce their environmental impacts in all aspects of their operations; and this profile provides a full list of all their "green" activities. These are the activities that guests / customers can expect to find when they visit this facility.

Hemlock Haven

"Douthat is a state park with cabins, camping, restaurant, swim beach, and other park amenities. The meeting facilities provide a rustic setting and are available for use by family groups, government and business organizations."

Green Statement: "Many of these standards have been in place as part of routine operations. As a conservation organization, protecting and reducing impacts on the environment can be achieved by implementing Green standards throughout the park."



CORE ACTIVITIES for Conference Centers

☑ This symbol indicates a required activity for Virginia Green Conference Centers. Participants self-certify that these activities are in place and they provide additional specifics on other activities. Visitors to **Hemlock Haven** can expect the following practices:

☑ **Recycling and Waste Reduction.** All conference centers must provide for recycling at their events. Aluminum can and plastic bottle recycling are a must. Recycling of steel cans, cardboard, office paper, and composting of waste foods are encouraged as well. This facility pledges that they:

- Recycle: glass, aluminum cans, plastic, office paper, toner cartridges, newspaper, cardboard, fluorescent lamps, electronic equipment
- Recycling Bins are located in all conference centers and on cabin porches. Guests can also recycle in large receptacles by entrance to cabin areas and campgrounds
- Track overall waste bills
- Have a numeric goal to reduce overall materials that go to the landfill
kitchen (or meetings/events)
- Have an effective food inventory control to minimize waste
dining room (or meetings/events)
- Use reusable dishware and glassware & minimize use of disposables
- Use water pitches and filtered water to minimize the use of single-use bottles
- Use menus and table placards as opportunity to communicate green activities

- Print menus on recycled content paper with soy-based inks
- Use screen based ordering system
- restrooms
- Use high-efficiency hand dryers
- Purchase recycled-content paper-towels and toilet paper
- office/purchasing
- Purchase from vendors and service providers with a commitment to the environment
- Make 2-sided copies / printed materials
- Use electronic correspondence and forms
- Compost office paper
- building and grounds
- Purchase durable equipment and furniture
- Use latex paints
- Reuse paint thinners
- Properly recycle and/or dispose of thinners and solvents
- Perform preventative maintenance on all appliances, HVAC systems, plumbing, and vehicles
- Use less toxic materials
- Use "integrated pest management"
- Minimize use of pesticides and herbicides in landscaping
- Use a nutrient management plan that minimizes the use of fertilizers in landscaping

☒ **Styrofoam elimination and reduction of disposables.** Virginia Green Conference centers are encouraged to eliminate or minimize the use of Styrofoam-based products and to use alternative disposables that are made of natural products and/or are bio-degradable. This facility pledges that they:

- Use disposable containers that are made from bio-based materials, made from recycled content paper, and are recyclable

☒ **Water Conservation.** The facility must have a plan for conserving water that should consider plumbing modifications and landscaping. This facility pledges that they:

- Track overall water usage and wastewater
- Perform preventative maintenance to stop drips and leaks
- Use water-flow metering to discover leaks and areas of high use
- Have:
 - High efficiency dishwasher
 - low flow restrictors on faucets and showerheads
 - low flow toilets
- Discourage water-base clean up
- Have an effective landscape management plan
- Use rain barrels and have constructed rain barrels for use in irrigating landscaped areas
- Maintain vegetative buffers around streams and ponds

☒ **Energy Conservation.** The facility must have a plan in place that encourages replacement of lighting and equipment to energy-efficient alternatives. This facility pledges that they:

- Track overall energy bills
- Have a numeric goal to reduce energy usage over time
- Use compact fluorescent light bulbs in all rooms and in canned lighting
- Use high efficiency fluorescent ballasts and lamps
- Have high efficiency heating & air conditioning (HVAC) systems
- Perform preventative maintenance on HVAC system
- Have individual thermostats for each room/area
- Use natural lighting
- Use lighting sensors to turn on/off lights
- Purchase ENERGY STAR rated computers, appliances, etc.
- Have thermal-rated windows and insulation
- Use directional (downward-facing) lighting in parking areas and other outdoor areas

- ☒ **Green Events Package.** Virginia Green conference centers must offer a “green” or “environmentally-friendly” package for conferences, meetings and other events. Even if the facility only offers occasional, small events, at least recycling will be provided.
- Offer literature on green activities that pertain to the conference
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For more information on **Highlands Conference Center**, see www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/dou.shtml or contact **Park Manager** at Douthat@dcr.virginia.gov or **540-862-8100**

For more information on the *Virginia Green* program, see www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/viriniagreen/homepage.html or go to www.viriniagreentravel.org.



Virginia Green is the Commonwealth’s campaign to encourage environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia’s tourism industry. *Virginia Green* is supported through a partnership between the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Hospitality & Travel Association, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

